price 25 cents

'Simba'

Presented by the

MARTIN JOHNSON AFRICAN EXPEDITION CORPORATION

DANIEL E. POMEROY, *President*

Tour under personal direction

FRANK R. WILSON

51 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK

As Presented at the

EARL CARROLL THEATRE

NEW YORK

MCMXXVIII

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Johnson

The Story of Martin Johnson

What American youth doesn't at some time or other during his boyhood years dream of adventure and travel?

Martin Johnson, foremost explorer and camera hunter of wild animals, whose remarkable pictures photographed in the heart of the Jungle have contributed to science and natural history, was one of those American boys who dreamed constantly of adventure and travel, yet never in his wildest flights of fancy did he imagine his life would be so full of varying experiences and least of all, did he ever dream of seeing his own pictures in a "Who's Who."

He was just approaching his teens when life in that section of America's Prairie called Independence Kansas would have been sadly uninteresting and boring were it not for his ability to lift himself out of that environment and picture himself in as many of the foreign lands as the packing cases, labels and stamps from unknown shores, which brought an assortment of jewelry and notions to his father's store, represented. The young Martin found the keenest delight in demolishing the huge packing cases for they gave him an opportunity to examine the stray circulars, wisps of curious grasses, mattings, papers and the other remnants of packing materials which he found in the packing room at his father's store in the village. His friends all looked upon his Saturday duties of wrecking the woodpile as hard labor, but to Martin it was the best of fun for those hours he spent at that woodpile were filled with dreams of far-away lands—Shanghai, Tokyo, Christiana, Singapore, Manila, Melbourne, Beyrut and Liverpool. He preferred his hours in the woodshed by far to any of the sports which the village youths indulged in. At school he may not have been the star pupil in arithmetic, but he excelled in geography. And because he didn't indulge in any of the village sports he was classed as unsocial. His classmates didn't understand him and Martin was therefore left alone to wander about by himself. In this way he learned a great deal about the birds, the neighboring country and the fishing that that part of Kansas afforded him. But he was far from satisfied.

When only fourteen years of age, he decided to run away and acting on that impulse (he always made decisions quickly) he boarded a train one night, unknown to the railroad company, out of Independence bound for anywhere. His travels brought him to Chicago where he remained for a while working as a bell-hop in a Chicago hotel. But Chicago soon tired him and then, too, he decided he wanted to travel, so, working his way East he managed to work his way to Liverpool as cattle tender on a cattle boat. Whitechapel, London, was his next residence and after a year of privation in which he suffered hand to mouth existence, he became homesick for his Kansas home and an American bound liner brought a stowaway back to his native shores. It was while stowed away on the American ship that he found an American paper in which he read that Jack London was planning a cruise around the world in the "Snark." This was just what Johnson wanted. A letter to Jack London brought back the answer that a job aboard the Snark" as cook was his, if he could cook. Undaunted, he went home and remained long enough to learn how to cook from his mother.

When that expedition terminated suddenly in the South Seas, the courageous youth spent a year on the beaches studying life there. During that year he met a stranded French cameraman, who seeing the boy's keen interest in his motion picture cameras, taught him how to operate them. Fascinated by the cameras, Johnson photographed the life of the natives and as many of the wild animals as he could get. The pictures were sent to Paris by the French cameraman, but the experience stood Johnson in good stead in later years besides making a cameraman out of him.

Having learned about the films and the nickelodeon wave of motion picture development that was sweeping the country, he began casting about for capital with which to enter this new and apparently lucrative field. His association with Jack London aided him in securing a partner with capital, and together they began organizing a chain of motion picture theatres, which, by the way, was one of the first chains of motion picture theatres in this country. Empty stores were rented and converted into motion picture emporiums. The string numbered ten in all and was named the Snark Circuit.

While managing these theatres he met Miss Osa Leighty, a pretty young girl from Chanute, who, mistaking him for someone else, smiled at him. Seeing her mistake, she became first embarrassed then haughty, but to Martin that was nothing. Johnson had made quick decisions before. He decided quickly again and it was not very long before he and the haughty young lady were married.

When the Snark Circuit looked as if it were due for some rough weather, Johnson became a lecturer with pictures in small time vaudeville, regaling his audiences with his experiences in the South Seas and the Jack London expedition, and although the pictures he used had nothing to do with the South Seas, Johnson was a convincing speaker with imagination and ardor and the act was a mild success. Big time on the Orpheum Circuit followed and later when the lectures began to decrease in popularity, he became editor of the Orpheum Weekly.

Johnson soon tired of this too, and before very long, he and his wife Osa, boarded a ship bound for the South Seas with a camera and a small capital. "Captured by the Cannibals," and "The Headhunters of the South Seas" were their two big pictures, telling of their expeditionary adventures in the South Seas, although there were numerous other excursions which were not recorded.

A pioneer by instinct and a showman at heart, Johnson decided to try something never attempted before. He revisited an old cannibal chieftain in the South Seas equipped with a projection machine and a portable plant, to show the natives pictures of themselves and of the other part of the world, the white world, of which they knew nothing.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson's more recent experiences have been in Africa, where in the very heart of the Jungle they have been exploring and camera hunting. Their latest picture, "Simba," which took four years to complete, is the story of a Lion war against a Lumbwa tribe of natives in Tanganyika, British East Africa, and is neither a staged nor a movie production but a record of actual happenings. Some of the "shots" took them weeks, of watchful, painstaking waiting to make, while others took great skill to catch for the slightest sound will frighten the animals away or mean instant death.

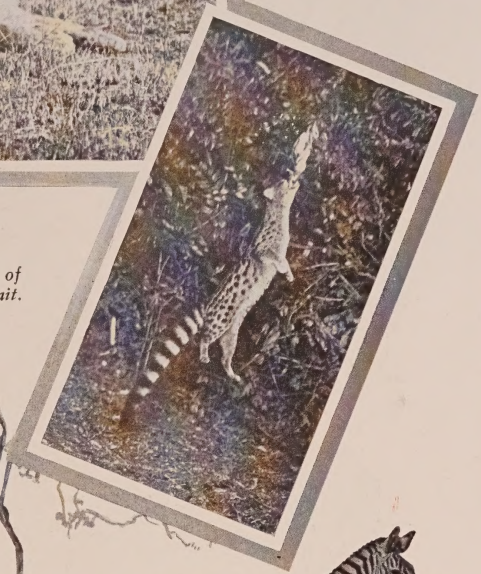
"Osa Johnson brings down a "greater bustard," the largest game bird of Africa.

A "little girl" (Osa) shoots a big elephant. It is dangerous work in the thick jungle to go after these big animals.

"PARADE REST"

The warriors of the NANDI tribe off duty. These are the men who courageously spear the lions which raid their herds.

Tabby Cats of the Jungle. Some of the lions the Johnsons encountered in Tauganyika Territory.



A Civet Cat takes a flashlight of himself as he jumps for the bait.

Ponies of the plains. Grauts Zebra the most common animal of East Africa. There are estimated to be about four million of these in the East African section.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
anonymous donation in memory of Carolyn Hauer

https://archive.org/details/souv-simba-1928

SIMBA

An old "grandfather" with wrinkle skin. These very old bulls move about in solitude, having been driven from the herd by the younger and stronger ones.

An African flapper of the Somburu tribe.

"Martin" and "Osa" hobnobbing with society.

Caught in the act of taking his "nightcap" snapped by the flash light as he was about to take a drink.

The sly hyena "caught in the act" of stalking the bait.

A black rhino takes his own picture. All large animals prowl about at night and the flash light gets many pictures that would be otherwise impossible.

"Who goes there?" says this old bull when he detects a movement in the bush.

Afaican flappers of the Somboru tribe. The people living in the country around Lake Paradise.

Mr. Johnson embarks on the Uganda Railroad for a little photographic jaunt "up country."

Paradise Lake. An old volcanic crater on the edge of which the Johnsons made their home for four years.

The Johnsons are "presented" at court.

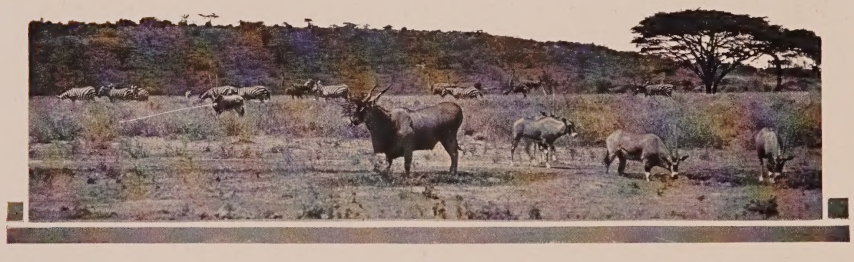
The King and Queen of the Somburu receiving the King and Queen of Photography.

The Lion War of the Lumbwa Tribe

The Mad Elephant Stampede in the Burning Jungle

It's a long time between drinks during the dry season in Africa and game concentrates at water holes wherever they are. Zebra and Gnu.

Ready to defend her kill. A lion or lioness having pulled down a zebra always starts eating at the rump.



A water hole party. Those present were Mr. Eland (centre), Mr. and Mrs. Oryx and family. The Zebra family and the Ladies' Auxiliary of Ostriches.

"Pigaback" in Africa. All's well as long as they are both young and friendly but later the little baboon must follow the "Safety First" rules.

A Leopard comes to a lion kill. A Grevey's Zebra pulled down by lions and only partly eaten—when such is the case the lions will invariably return to it the next night.

A Jungle Family. It is strange to see these living animals of prehistoric times roaming about the landscape, says Osa.

SIMBA

"FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING IN SAID CITY A MUSEUM AND LIBRARY OF NATURAL HISTORY; OF ENCOURAGING AND DEVELOPING THE STUDY OF NATURAL SCIENCE; OF ADVANCING THE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF KINDRED SUBJECTS, AND TO THAT END OF FURNISHING POPULAR INSTRUCTION"

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January the sixteenth
Nineteen hundred twenty-eight

Mr. Martin Johnson,
Martin Johnson African Expedition Corporation,
30 Church Street, New York City.

My dear Mr. Johnson:

I am delighted with the marvelous results you have obtained in securing both in motion pictures and stills the wonderful photographic records you have brought back. Having seen these, I appreciate what a very valuable contribution you have made to science in the way of a permanent record of African wild life and natives.

It is fortunate that through the Martin Johnson African Expedition Corporation the Museum finds itself in a position to bring these exceptional pictures before the public, who, I am sure, will acclaim them the finest, the most thrilling and authentic African pictures ever produced.

Very truly yours,

Henry Fairfield Osborn.

President.

In the Wilds They Pose Themselves

Lioness and Her Kill, from "Simba"

Get off the Treadmill

THOUSANDS of concerns

It is these fact

Martin Johnson African Expedition Corp.

DANIEL E. POMEROY, *President*

presents

THE WORLD'S PREMIERE

"SIMBA"

1—INTRODUCTORY

MR. AND MRS. MARTIN JOHNSON

in

"As They Really Are At Home"

Microphonic Talk by

MARTIN JOHNSON (*Brunswick Recording*)

2—PROLOGUE

"Highlights of the Johnson's Travels of the Past Fifteen Years"

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING FROM EVERYWHERE

3—MOVIELUSTRATION

SONG-O-LOGUE

SONG of SAFARI

A SPECIAL VOCAL NUMBER DEDICATED TO
MR. & MRS. JOHNSON, AND THEME SONG OF THE PROGRAM

SUNG BY FRANK MUNN, *Exclusive Brunswick Recording Star*

Words by Herman Ruby — Music by Sam Stept

4—MR. and MRS. MARTIN JOHNSON

in

THE NATURAL HISTORY PICTURE

"SIMBA"

Entire Program Conceived and Staged by M. J. Weisfeldt
Under the Direction of Frank R. Wilson

Music—Brunswick Recording for "Simba and Song of Safari"

Titles and Editing "Simba" and Prologue by Terry Ramsaye

Art Work Executed by Hap Hadley Studios

Stage Settings by Bernard Lohmuller

Additional books can be obtained by sending money order for 35c each to Palace Publishing Co., 431 West 42nd Street, New York City.

Printed in U. S. A.
The Longacre Press, Inc.
New York City